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Report on the sanatorium for tuberculosis at Belzig.

BERLIN, GERMANY, December 7, 1900.

SIR: In view of the sanatorium treatment recently provided by the Marine-Hospital Service for the treatment of sailors of the merchant marine affected with pulmonary tuberculosis, I have the honor to submit the following report of a recent visit to the sanatorium at Belzig, near Berlin. Through the courtesy of Dr. Von Leyden, the distinguished professor of the university of Berlin, and one of the consulting physicians of this institution, I was granted permission to visit the sanatorium. This institution though small is probably the most modern and perfectly equipped in Germany. It was only opened for the reception of patients in the early part of the present year, so no official report has yet been made of the work at this institution. The government makes no appropriation for its support, but it is largely sustained by a Berlin society for the treatment of tuberculosis. There are 25 free beds, endowed by Samuel Bleichroeder, of Berlin. There are also 95 pay beds, the charges for which vary between 75 cents and \$1.25 per day, depending on the character of the room. Considering the generous diet furnished at this institution and the modern comforts afforded, it would be surprising if the sum so collected from the patients was sufficient to meet all current expenses.

The town of Belzig is about one and one-half hours by train from Berlin, and the sanatorium is reached after one-half hour's drive from the station. It is well situated in an enormous pine forest, and is well sheltered from wind by a slight elevation of land on all sides. The tall pines afford additional shelter. The elevation is not more than 400 feet above the sea level, but the officers of the institution do not consider this a serious drawback. The soil is sandy and porous. The sunshine during winter is limited both on account of the extreme northern latitude and the number of cloudy days. In summer naturally the number of hours of sunshine is greatly increased. The building is of brick and is well encircled with large open verandas. It is heated partly by steam and partly by hot water and is equipped with an electric light plant.

As a rule patients are not received in advanced stages of tuberculosis. Unless their condition is such as to justify a fair hope of recovery, or at least improvement, they are not wanted.

Every patient on admittance is examined thoroughly as to his physical condition, and the sputum searched for tubercle bacilli. In case no bacilli are discovered after three successive examinations, then Koch's tuberculin is tried, beginning with 1 milligram and increasing the dose to 10 milligrams. In case of no fever reaction, the evidence is against tuberculosis. Tuberculin is only used as a diagnostic measure at this institution, though at Koch's original institution in Berlin it is still used for treatment in suitable cases. The institution relies almost entirely upon measures tending to improve the general condition of the patient, such as fresh air, nutritious food, with rest. Cold morning douche baths are also prescribed in many cases, and seem to exert a favorable influence in toning up the general system. In addition to this morning application of cold water, every patient is given a cold bandage for chest at bedtime, and the attending physician speaks with great confidence of its effect in promoting expectoration and producing sleep. A flannel bandage is wrung out in cold water and applied to the chest, and over this is applied a covering of oiled silk or rubber. At

first patients do not take kindly to this treatment, but soon find its application so grateful that it can not be dispensed with.

All patients whose temperature goes above 38° C. are kept in bed. Those whose temperature reaches 37.5° C. are allowed the rest treatment on the open verandas, but not to take the exercise of walking on the grounds. Rest treatment as carried out at this sanatorium consists in having the patient lie perfectly quiet in a reclining chair on the open verandas for a period of five hours daily. During this time the patient is well wrapped in woolen blankets, and is encouraged to sleep as much as possible. Light reading is not prohibited.

The exercise of walking is carried on for three hours during the day, and is never discontinued on account of bad weather. The patients are, of course, well protected from rain and cold.

The meals of the day are given as follows, 7.30 a. m., first breakfast—Coffee or cocoa, with milk, bread and butter; 10 a. m., second breakfast—Milk, bread, butter, and eggs; 1 p. m., dinner—Soup, meat, beer, vegetables, stewed fruit, dessert, followed by a small cup of coffee; 4 p. m., "vesper"—Coffee or cocoa, with milk, bread, and butter; 7 p. m., supper—Soup, cold meat, potatoes, and milk.

There is a slight variation in the menu of dinner and supper each day.

It may be of interest to state that Dr. Müller, at the head of this sanatorium, has discovered in growing grass a bacillus which he has termed the "timothée bacillus." It is similar in all its cultural and staining characteristics to Koch's tubercle bacillus, except that it develops on blood serum within twenty-four hours, instead of two weeks, as required by the original tubercle bacillus. The timothée bacillus is also pathogenic to guinea pigs.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH B. GREENE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

ITALY.

Report from Naples.

NAPLES, ITALY, December 5, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended December 5, 1900, the following ships were inspected:

On November 30, the steamship *Kaiser Wilhelm II*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 544 steerage passengers and 276 pieces of large and 800 pieces of small baggage. Two hundred and fifty-three pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On December 2, the steamship *Trojan Prince*, of the Prince Line, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 855 steerage passengers and 200 pieces of large and 950 pieces of small baggage. Two hundred and sixty pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

On December 5, the steamship *Alsatia*, of the Anchor Line, bound with cargo and passengers for New York. There were inspected and passed 219 steerage passengers and 18 pieces of large and 250 pieces of small baggage. Forty pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.